



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Names Appointments to Maricopa County Superior Court

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced the appointments of Joseph Patrick Mikitish and Jay Ryan Adleman to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

“Personally and professionally, Joe is a stand-up individual with the demeanor and legal expertise fitting for a judgeship,” said Governor Brewer. “The legal acumen he has developed from working on complex environmental law issues – coupled with an extensive background in both the private and public sectors – will lend a unique and valuable voice to the bench. I’m confident he will serve Maricopa County with dignity and integrity.”

Mr. Mikitish has worked for the Arizona Attorney General’s Office since 2001, and has served as Unit Chief since 2007. His current practice involves the representation of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and a variety of environmental issues pertaining to the state. In this capacity, his responsibilities include litigation and appeals; general counseling; administrative, open meetings and public records law; and supervision and training.

Previously, he practiced at Beshears Muchmore Wallwork (2000-01); served as an Assistant Attorney General at the Arizona Attorney General’s Office (1996-2000); worked for Fennemore Craig (1992-96); and served as an Arizona Supreme Court Clerk (1991-92).

Mr. Mikitish has served as a director and officer for the following organizations: Maggie’s Place, a non-profit that provides homes for homeless pregnant women; Arizona Bridge to Independent Living, a group that provides programs and services for people with disabilities; and St. Thomas Moore Society, an organization in which legal professionals share and promote faith and high ethical standards.

He is widely-acclaimed and recognized for his legal and volunteer work. His awards include: Arizona Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 (2002); Phoenix Mayor’s Award – Commission on Disability Issues (2002); the Attorney General’s Office – Rising Star Award (2005) and Public Advocacy Division Outstanding Lawyer Award (2012); and recognition as one of Arizona’s Finest Lawyers (2011). Notably, Mr. Mikitish assisted with the implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Mr. Mikitish graduated *magna cum laude* from University of Arizona Law School (1991). He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Arizona (1988), where he served as a student Regent his senior year. He has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1991.

The Governor's appointment of Joseph Mikitish was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael R. McVey.

Governor Brewer also has appointed Jay Adleman to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

"Jay's trial and litigation experience spans a wide variety of areas, including criminal law, juvenile law and commercial litigation," said Governor Brewer. "In addition to his broad legal expertise, Jay brings to the bench public and private sector background, as well as a deep appreciation and respect for the rule of law. He will be a tremendous asset to the Maricopa County Superior Court."

Mr. Adleman has been as a Maricopa County Court Commissioner since 2011. In this capacity, he presides over juvenile court matters involving delinquency and dependency-related issues. His legal background also includes criminal law in both prosecution and defense roles, insurance bad faith, wrongful death and commercial litigation.

Prior to serving as a Court Commissioner, Mr. Adleman worked for Jones, Skelton & Hochuli (2006-11); the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (2001-06); Teilborg, Sanders & Parks (1999-2001); and as a Clerk for the Arizona Court of Appeals (1998-99).

During his time with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Mr. Adleman twice received the Trial Division Attorney of the Month Award in 2004 and 2005. He also was appointed by the Office to a special task force designed to improve gun-related prosecutions (2003-05).

In addition to his professional background, Mr. Adleman has played an active role in the community. He participated in National Adoption Day (2011-12) and was a member of the local U.S. Department of Justice's "Weed and Seed" program, an initiative to improve the Roosevelt School District community. He currently is a member of the University of Arizona Alumni Association; Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix; and is an avid supporter of the Humane Society.

Mr. Adleman graduated *cum laude* from University of Arizona Law School (1998). He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona (1995), where he earned an Arizona Board of Regents Scholarship all four years. He has been licensed to practice law in Arizona since 1998.

The appointment of Jay Adleman was made to fill the opening created by the appointment of Judge Eddward P. Ballinger, Jr., to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona.

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